Rehabilitation of orphans/victims of terrorism in J and K

2807. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a good number of persons have become orphans, being victims of terrorism in J & K; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken by Government to rehabilitate such orphans/victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Jammu and Kashmir had set up a Council for Rehabilitation of militancy-hit Widows, Orphans, Handicapped and Old Persons in 1995. The Council provides assistance for psychological and economic rehabilitation of the victims. The rehabilitation schemes include:—

(i) Pension to widows and old persons @ Rs. 500/- p.m.

(ii) Marriage assistance to young widows and grown up daughters of old widows @ Rs. 10,000/- per case,

(iii) Pension to handicapped/disabled persons @ Rs. 500/- per month, (iv) Scholarship for professional studies: Tuition fee Rs. 5000/- per annum Hostlers Rs. 7000/- per annum (v) Psychological Rehabilitation and Financial assistance. The National Foundation for Communal Harmony is also providing financial assistance to the orphan students, including victims of terrorism/ militancy related violence, of below poverty line families @ Rs. 750/- per month per child for rural areas and Rs. 800/- per child per month in urban areas under 'Project ASSIST' upto the age of 18 years (extendable upto the age of 21 years in exceptional cases).

The State Government provides Rs. 10,000/- under National benefit Scheme to the Next on Kin of persons who dies in militancy violence and is sole bread-earner of the family.

The Government of Jammu and Kashmir provides Rs. 1.00 lakh as ex-gratia relief to the next of kin of deceased persons, employment and compensation for damaged houses.